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Book Reviews

Cicero. Selected Orations and Letters, with Introduction, Notes, Vocabulary, and English-Latin Exercises. By ARTHUR W. ROBERTS and JOHN C. ROLFE. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1917. Pp. lxxiv+543.

The text of this volume comprises the following orations: the Manilian Law, the four against Catiline, the Archias, the Milo, and the Marcellus; together with eleven letters. The first seven orations are fully annotated in the back part of the book; the Marcellus and the letters are provided with footnotes for sight reading.

The book in general creates an excellent impression, being abundantly supplied with helpful illustrations and maps. However, the two pictures of Pompey (p. 8 and p. 126) show features so unlike that they cannot both be authentic, and the map of Italy (p. 26) should certainly include Arpinum. Further, the guiding numbers with the picture of the Forum (p. xxvi) are not likely to serve successfully the purpose for which they are intended. The notes, both those with the sight-reading material and those in the regular commentary, are excellent and in general well within the grasp of the young student. The vocabulary, while brief, is ample and contains as a commendable feature many English derivatives of the Latin words defined. No provision has been made either in the vocabulary or elsewhere for the study of synonyms. A brief treatment of this subject, of special importance in the interpretation of Cicero, might well have been included. Along with synonyms the foundation should be laid in Cicero for the study of figures of grammar and rhetoric. Of these the editors have not been equally neglectful and the sections devoted to them (§§ 155-74) will be welcomed.

The general excellence of the book is marred by an introduction which needs careful revision. It consists of two parts, the first treating of the life of Cicero and of Roman institutions and the second of Latin grammar. The biography of Cicero is given twice, first in condensed form and then in greater detail. The value of this innovation is questionable. A summary of the chief events of the orator's life with dates would have been quite as effective as the first, and the second is diffuse, poorly organized, and contains some statements of doubtful accuracy. As examples of poor organization §§ 7 and 9 should have been merged; the greater part of § 10 and all of § 11 are chronologically out of place and most of § 11 is repeated in § 19. Some statements open to criticism are the following: The Latin of Cicero's early days—almost a century after Plautus and Terence—can hardly be called "a rough and

uncultivated tongue" (§ 7), and Cicero's unhappy poetic efforts in a period that produced Catullus and Lucretius surely do not deserve the praise bestowed upon them. According to § 8 only those who had been elected to a curule magistracy were admitted to the senate and all senators wore the *toga praetexta*; but quaestors were admitted to the senate and were not curule magistrates, neither did they wear the *toga praetexta*. This error is evidently due to the mistaken belief, expressed in § 13, that the quaestorship was a curule magistracy. Cicero's contention that the execution of the conspirators was not unconstitutional is called a "quibble" and the act clearly illegal (§ 19). On the contrary the constitutionality of the *senatus consultum ultimum* is still a matter of high dispute and is aptly compared by Abbott (*Roman Political Institutions*, § 287) to the old problem of free will and necessity. In § 24 Cicero is said to have been forewarned (?) of the favorable action of the senate. The distinction between the *concilium plebis* and the *comitia tributa* does not rest, as is stated in § 42, *h*, on the official position of the one calling it, but on the fact that the former was a meeting of the *plebs* and the latter of the *populus*. These assemblies were differently constituted and elected different officials, which latter point is entirely disregarded in the last sentence of the section. Religious officers who played such an important part in Roman political history are disposed of in a very short and unsatisfactory paragraph (§ 41, *b*). In the first sentence the reviewer is unable to determine whether "*haruspices*, *flamines*, interpreters of dreams, and priests attached to the worship of a particular deity" refers to two or to four classes of persons. If to two, while *flamines* were priests attached to the worship of a particular deity, *haruspices* were not interpreters of dreams; if to four, the second and the fourth classes are identical. The etymology given for *pontifex* is no longer tenable (*v. Walde*).

The grammatical part of the introduction is confined to points of syntax with which pupils may be assumed to be less well acquainted. It is to be feared that this feature of the book will prove to be more of a danger than a help to the immature student. Abundant experience shows that it is not safe to assume that the student is familiar enough with the common constructions to warrant their omission either here or anywhere else in the high-school course. Pedagogically such tabloidal treatment of syntax has nothing to recommend it. The reviewer is old fashioned enough to regret the almost total disappearance of the complete grammar from the school and the corresponding absence of grammatical drill and reference.

Aside from its brevity the grammatical material is well arranged and as a rule clearly presented. The old nomenclature has been used without change. Yet some of the newer names are distinctly better than the old ones and are rapidly coming into general use. The rule for sequence of tenses (§ 95) is poorly stated. As it reads, the determining verb is in the dependent clause. Section 113 gives no example of an "until" clause with the subjunctive, and a similar criticism applies to § 114. In § 116 *venit* is more likely a perfect than

a present. The close of § 144 should read "the future participle with *fuisse*," not "the future infinitive with *fuisse*." The construction mentioned in § 144 (a) should be extended to the passive subjunctive of direct discourse to avoid the use of the rare future passive infinitive. Questions and prohibitions in indirect discourse are not discussed. Why are §§ 145-48 included in the chapter on indirect discourse? In § 148 the perfect should have been mentioned as well as the pluperfect. The translation of *pridie Kalendas Ianuarias* in the first example in § 176 is correct by our calendar but confusing in view of the statement made right above it that in Cicero's day December had only 29 days.

The Latin composition is based on portions of the text and contains exercises both of short sentences and of continuous passages. They fail to provide systematic drill in syntax and are likely to prove too difficult for the average student. Their difficulty is increased by the absence of an English-Latin vocabulary. The pleasant delusion which the reviewer once shared, that students need none when the text is used as a basis, has been shattered by the test of experience.

The proofreading has been carefully done, only one error having been noted: *Seipio* for *Scipio* (p. 263). In conclusion it should be stated that the merits of the book far outweigh such defects as have been pointed out.

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